

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 FEA-02 SCI-06 AF-10 DRC-01 /107 W

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P 210930Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6466

S E C R E T JIDDA 1402

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI CONCERN OVER HOSTILE REACTION TO ITS  
POSITION ON BOYCOTT

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MAS'UD, PETROMIN HEAD TAHER AND OTHERS IN LAST TWO DAYS HAVE POINTED OUT WITH SOME CONCERN THE EXPOSED POSITION OF SAUDI ARABIA IN THE ARAB WORLD AND IN OPEC BECAUSE OF THE CLOSE SAUDI RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.
2. SAUDI ARABIA BROKE WITH SYRIA OVER THE BOYCOTT, AN ACTION IT GREATLY WISHED TO AVOID AND IT IS UNDER STRONG, EVEN VIOLENT ATTACK FROM THE ARAB RADICALS BECAUSE OF THE SAUDI ACTIONS AT TRIPOLI. EGYPT IS SHARING THE OPPROBRIUM BUT ONLY SAUDI VIEWS AND ACTIONS HAD ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN TRIPOLI. THE RADICALS KNOW THIS AND THEIR IRE IS CONCENTRATED ON RIYADH, NOT CAIRO.
3. SAUDI ARABIA WAS EVEN MORE ISOLATED IN VIENNA. IT INSISTED OIL PRICES BE REDUCED; ALL RPT ALL OTHERS DEMANDED PRICE INCREASES AND ONLY A SAUDI THREAT TO WITHDRAW ENABLED PRICES TO BE KEPT AT PRESENT LEVELS FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS.
4. NONE OF THE SAUDIS HAVE EXPRESSED ANY REGRET AT  
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THIS ACTION BUT THEY CERTAINLY ARE CRAVING WORDS

OF APPROBATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT. WE HAVE BEEN GIVING THEM. WE'VE SPOKEN OF SAUDI ARABIA'S NEW LEADERSHIP, OF ITS RESPONSIBLE IMPACT ON THE WORLD, OF ITS STATESMANSHIP AND WISDOM.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: A) THAT THE PRESIDENT SEND A LETTER TO KING FAISAL AND THE SECRETARY SEND A LETTER TO SAYYID OMAR SAQQAF AND AHMAD ZAKI YAMANI, THANKING THEM FOR THEIR ACTIONS AT TRIPOLI AND VIENNA. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO LAY IT ON TOO THICK; B) THAT THROUGH BACKGROUND, OR BETTER, THROUGH ON-THE-RECORD INTERVIEWS THE AMERICAN PRESS BE INFORMED OF THE SAUDI ROLES IN TRIPOLI AND VIENNA.

6. COMMENT: THE SAUDIS ARE NOT USED TO BEING SO EXPOSED. THE KING CERTAINLY SHARES THIS PREOCCUPATION WITH FIREY ATTACKS BY NON-ARABS AS WELL AS THE ARAB RADICALS. THE SECOND ACTION PROPOSED ABOVE WILL ADD LITTLE NEW FUEL TO THE RADICALS' FIRE, AND THE SAUDIS NEED THE PUBLIC ENCOURAGEMENT AND APPROBATION.

AKINS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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